

Advert - Head of the Scottish Government Office, Denmark (Copenhagen)

Eligible Grades – All

Location – British Embassy, Copenhagen, Denmark

Further Information – Staff on any working pattern may apply

Overview

This role, based in Copenhagen, will lead on the establishment of a new Scottish Government presence in the Nordic region. The post, located in the British Embassy, will report to the Deputy Director European Relations in Edinburgh, as part of the Directorate for External Affairs.

Working collaboratively with international partners and pursuing opportunities for international policy exchange will form an integral part of Scotland's recovery following Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic. Scotland and the Nordic countries have long worked together to develop joint solutions to shared challenges, reflecting the many similarities and rich cultural connections between our countries. Building on existing ties and pursuing even greater collaboration with Nordic stakeholders is therefore a top priority for Scotland's international engagement effort. The successful candidate will be responsible for establishing and developing the Scottish Government's office, promoting policy engagement and building new connections in the Nordic region – particularly with Denmark, Norway and Sweden – to showcase Scottish expertise and identify opportunities for collaboration. Close working with Team Scotland partners (Scottish Development International, Visit Scotland, Global Scots, etc), Embassy staff in Copenhagen, as well as the Scotland-based Nordic and Arctic Unit and other domestic policy teams in the Scottish Government, will be essential. While the post will be based in Copenhagen, the office will undertake a regional remit. You should be willing to travel throughout the region to build and maintain key relationships and to support inward visits.

This is a diplomatic posting and comes with an overseas allowances package. For further information regarding allowances please contact (name of officer).

This post is subject to National Security Vetting to SC level and the successful candidate will need to have the required clearance before taking up post. As this is a diplomatic posting, it is open to UK nationals only.

Main Duties

The Office Head has responsibility for representing the Scottish Government's interests in the Nordic region, recruiting and managing a team of two in the Scottish Government Office within the British Embassy. Key duties include:

- Establishing the new office, including recruiting and inducting a new team.
- Leading a coherent and collaborative Scottish approach to engagement with Nordic countries, that reflects the breadth of Scotland's international identity and expertise.
- Working in close conjunction with the existing Scottish Development International team and Embassy staff in Copenhagen and pursuing a Team Scotland approach to

promote Scotland as a global destination to visit, work, live, study and do business.

- Representing the Scottish Government with the British Embassy, politicians, the media, senior business leaders, opinion-formers and academics in Nordic countries.
- Maintaining overall oversight of Scottish Ministerial and Official delegations visiting Nordic countries, delivering, or supporting partner organisations in delivering their programmes and securing the right outcomes.
- Engaging with Copenhagen-based international organisations such as the Nordic Council of Ministers and UN agencies in areas of shared interest in support of the Scottish Government's broader multilateral engagement approach.
- Promoting and contributing to the implementation of Scotland's Arctic policy framework.
- Advising and supporting Scottish Government Ministers, Officials and agencies on all areas of their engagement with Nordic countries, maximising the influence and reputation of Scotland to secure wider objectives.
- Contributing to the development of the SG's wider network of external offices.
- You will periodically be expected to be available out of core office hours and will be expected to travel back to Scotland regularly to engage with stakeholders both within and outwith the Scottish Government.

Essential Criteria

1. Proven capacity to deliver strategic impact in a high paced environment and to take a creative approach.
2. Confidence, credibility and cultural sensitivity in securing collaboration from a wide range of internal and external stakeholders, some of whom will be senior political representatives.
3. Leadership experience in challenging environments with a high degree of personal responsibility and political acuity.
4. Strong understanding of the Nordic political and policy environment. Knowledge of Danish and other Nordic languages is preferable.

Competencies

Communications and Engagement

Improving Performance

Leading Others

People Management

Provisional Dates for Sift and Assessment

The sift will take place in early November, with interviews in November/December.

Minimum Time in Post

The successful candidate will be expected to remain in post for a minimum of three years unless successful at gaining promotion to a higher Band or Grade.

In the event that further posts are required, a reserve list of successful candidates will be kept for up to 9 months.

Additional Information

Applicants must discuss their intention to apply with their current line manager to help ensure release dates can be agreed.

Nationality Requirements

As this is a diplomatic posting it is open to UK nationals only. Dual nationality is not an automatic bar, but certain posts may have restrictions which could affect those who do not solely have British nationality or who have personal connections with certain countries outside the UK.

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